

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 JUSE-00 DHA-02 SS-15 SP-02

NSC-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

/059 W

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R 282138Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7929

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 2984

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CS, PDIP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR WEISSMAN'S ARRIVAL NEWS CONFERENCE

1. AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN COSTA RICA JUNE 27, AMBASSADOR WEISSMAN WAS QUERIED ABOUT VESCO, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TRADE. THE FIRST TWO QUESTIONS DEALT WITH VESCO.

2. THE AMBASSADOR WAS ASKED IF HE BROUGHT SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO VESCO. HE RESPONDED: "I DO NOT BRING ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS, ONLY THE NEWS YOU ALREADY KNOW, THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CONTINUES TO STUDY THE CASE, AND THE HOPE OF ALL MY FELLOW CITIZENS THAT MR. VESCO WILL ONE DAY RETURN TO THE U.S. TO DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN THAT OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE, LIKE COSTA RICA'S, LEAVES ALL PEOPLE FREE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO KNOW IF THEY ARE ACTUALLY GUILTY OF THE CRIMES WITH WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN CHARGED."

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3. HE WAS THEN ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT ODUBER'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE HAD REQUESTED VESCO TO LEAVE COSTA RICA WILL AFFECT U.S.-COSTA RICAN RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR WEISSMAN REPLIED: "OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A PROBLEM AFFECTING OUR RELATIONS BUT I REALLY HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT TO THAT I ALREADY EXPRESSED."

4. TWO QUESTIONS WERE POSED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. THE AMBASSADOR WAS ASKED WHETHER HE CONSIDERED AN IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIVING TO BE A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT, AND IF IN THIS REGARD HAD HE BROUGHT SOMETHING CONCRETE FOR COSTA RICA. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THE U.S. BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO COOPERATE WITH DEMOCRACIES SUCH AS COSTA RICA IN DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS. LATER HE WAS ASKED IF PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY MEANT THAT THE U.S. WOULD TREAT COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA DIFFERENTLY. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE U.S. WAS INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL NATIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THE DIFFERENT HISTORICAL CONDITIONS AND HERITAGES OF INDIVIDUAL LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, DECLARING IT IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND AND TAKE THESE DIFFERENCES INTO ACCOUNT IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE HEMISPHERE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH ALL AND, AS DOES COSTA RICA ALSO, TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO PERSUADE BY SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE.

5. THE AMBASSADOR WAS ASKED ABOUT U.S.-COSTA RICAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AND THEN WHETHER THE INCEPTION OF TRADE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CUBA WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE AFFECT ON THE COSTA RICAN SUGAR QUOTA AND OTHER TROPICAL PRODUCTS EXPORTS. THE AMBASSADOR CALLED THE CONCEPT OF FREER TRADE FUNDAMENTAL IN NEW WORLD ECONOMIC RELATIONS. HE STATED THAT COSTA RICA

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HAS AN ADVANTAGE IN COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE OF ITS DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO INCREASE EXPORT PRODUCTION. HE SAID IT WAS PREMATURE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF U.S.-CUBAN TRADE AS WE ARE JUST BEGINNING THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS.
WEISSMAN

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